AMENDMENT OF THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims below replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of communicating in a network having a plurality of communities each including a server, the method comprising:

receiving, from the server in a first community associated with a first service provider, a request indicating desired real-time, text-based messaging from a first terminal coupled to the first community server to a second terminal coupled to the server in a second community associated with a second, different service provider; and

processing the request, by the server in the second community, to establish a real-time, text-based messaging session between the first and second terminals through the first and second community servers.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising determining if the second terminal has an established link with the second community server.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising sending a notification to the second terminal of the desired messaging session if the second terminal has an established link with the second community server.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising receiving an indication from the second terminal of whether the desired messaging session has been accepted.

5. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising sending a message to a predetermined communications device other than the second terminal if the second terminal does not have an established connection with the second community server.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein sending the messages includes sending to a communications device including at least one of a telephone, a pager, and an electronic mail receiver.

7. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising performing a reverse log on to the second terminal if the second terminal does not have an established link with the second community server.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising establishing a chat session between the first and second terminals.

9. - 18. (Cancelled)

19. (Original) A server for use in a communications system having a plurality of communities coupled by a network, each community associated with a different service provider, the server being associated with a first one of the communities and comprising:

an interface unit adapted to receive a contact request over the network from an entity associated with another community, the entity not logged on to the server, the contact request indicating a request to establish a text-based messaging session with a destination terminal linked to the server; and

a controller adapted to send a notification to the destination terminal of the contact request and to receive an indication from the destination terminal of acceptance of the contact request.

20. (Original) An article including one or more machine-readable storage media containing instructions for establishing a text-based messaging session between subscribers in a plurality of communities, each community associated with a different service provider, the instructions when executed causing a system in a first community associated with a first service provider to:

receive a request from a subscriber in a second community associated with a second service provider, the request indicating a desired text-based messaging session with a subscriber in the first community;

notify the subscriber in the first community of the request;

determine if the subscriber in the first community has accepted the request; and

establish the text-based messaging session between the subscribers if the subscriber in the first community accepted.

21. (Original) The article of claim 20, wherein the one or more storage media contain instructions that when executed cause the system to further send signaling to establish the text-based messaging session.

22. (Original) The article of claim 20, wherein the text-based messaging session includes a chat session.

23. (Original) The article of claim 20, wherein the one or more storage media contain instructions that when executed cause the system to create a controller object adapted to control the text-based messaging session.

24. (Original) The article of claim 20, wherein the one or more storage media contain instructions that when executed cause the system to:

receive a request from a subscriber in a third community associated with a third service provider for a text-based messaging session; and

establish the text-based messaging session among the subscribers in the first, second, and third communities.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the request comprises receiving a request indicating a desired interactive, text-based chat session.

28. (Previously Presented) The server of claim 19, wherein the text-based messaging session comprises an interactive, text-based chat session.

29. (Previously Presented) The server of claim 19, wherein the controller is adapted to further send messaging to perform a reverse log-on procedure with the destination terminal.

30. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 20, wherein the instructions when executed cause the system to establish the text-based messaging session by establishing an interactive, text-based chat session.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a web page for display at the first terminal, wherein receiving the request comprises receiving a message generated in response to a selection made in the web page.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

providing a session object in the second community server,

wherein receiving the request comprises receiving a request at the session object in the second community server from another session object in the first community server; and

the session object in the second community server exchanging messaging with the first community server to establish the real-time, text-based messaging session.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

providing a response, from the second community server, to the first terminal to present a web page in a web browser on the first terminal; and

receiving a text message of the real-time, text-based messaging session originated from the web browser on the first terminal.

35. (Previously Presented) The server of claim 19, wherein the interface unit is adapted to receive the contact request from a second server in the other community.

36. (Previously Presented) The server of claim 19, wherein the controller is adapted to communicate a web page for display on the entity,

the contact request comprising a message generated in response to user selection made in the web page at the entity.

37. (Previously Presented) The server of claim 19, wherein the controller comprises a session object,

the session object adapted to exchange messaging with another session object in a second server in the other community to establish the text-based messaging session.

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38. (Previously Presented) The server of claim 19, wherein the controller is adapted to communicate a response to the contact request to present a web page in a web browser at the entity,

the interface unit adapted to further receive text messaging from the web browser at the entity during the text-based message session.

39. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 20, wherein the instructions when executed cause the system to receive the request at a first server in the system from a second server in the second community.

40. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 39, wherein the instructions when executed cause the system to provide a web page for display at a subscriber terminal in the second community,

wherein the request received at the first server comprises messaging generated in response to selection made in the web page displayed at the subscriber terminal in the second community.

41. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 39, wherein the instructions when executed cause the system to:

provide a session object in the system; and

cause the session object to exchange messaging with the second server to establish the text-based messaging session.

42. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 20, wherein the instructions when executed cause the system to:

communicate, in response to the request, a web page for display in a web browser at a subscriber terminal in the second community; and

receive messaging from the web browser during the text-based messaging session.